BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Five.

(b) The five channels have been earmarked for programmes of :

(i) Entertainment

(ii) Sports

(iii) Busisess News & Current Affairs

(iv) Music, and

(v) Enrichment

No specific time has been allotted for programme to be telecast in Hindi.

(c) In the satellite Regional language service, programme in ten (10) Regional languages are telecast for a duration of 2 hrs 30 minutes each from Monday to Friday.

(d) The Ministry is undertaking a complete review of the satellite channels including interim arrangements.

Liberalisation of the Newsprint Import Policy

1512. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether INS requested the Central Government to further liberalise the newsprint import policy and to put an end to the undesirable protection given to indigenous manufacturers who were exploiting the sellers market by supplying interior quality newsprint at higher prices :

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the suggestions made by the INS chief in this regard ; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFARMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) to (c) The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) has been demanding liberalisation of Newsprint Import Policy. Consistent with the government's policy of liberalisation, the import of newsprint has already been decanalised with effect from 1-4-1992. To increase the availability of indigenous newsprint, 17 newsprint mills have now been included in Schedule I of the Newsprint Control Order. Newspapers can now lift newsprint from any of those mills which offers most competitive rates. The mills are free to fix the prices over which the government have no statutory control.

पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (पी०आई०बी०) के कार्यालयों में उर्दू भाषा से संबंधित पदों का रिक्त होना

1513. श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (पी०आई० बी०) के केन्द्रीय कार्यालय तथा देश के विभिन्न नगरों में स्थित इसके अन्य कार्यालयों में उर्दू भाषा के कितने पद रिक्त हैं; और

(ख) इन रिक्त पदों को भरने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० पी० सिंह देव) : (क) ग्यारह ।

(ख) रिक्तियों को भरने के लिए कार्रवाई पहले से ही शुरू की गई है ।

Urdu Newspapers/Periodicals Receiving Advertisements from DAVP

1514. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL Alias MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of Urdu Newspapers/Periodicals which have been released for purposes of advertisements by D.A.V.P. during the year 1992-93 together with the number of newspapers accepted for the purpose during the said period ;

(b) what are the names of these newspapers Periodicals alongwith their respective circulation ; and

(c) the number of applications from newspapers pending for clearance for the purpose as on the 30 August, 1993 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) The information is given below :

(i) No. of Newspapers/periodicals ... 261 renewed.

(ii) No. of fresh newspapers/periodicals .... 49 empanelled.

(b) The names and circulation figures of the newspapers/periodical are given in the Annexure [*See* Appendix CLXIX, Annexure No. 37].

(c) As on 30-8-1993, 40 application from newspapers were pending for renewal but out of these, rate contracts for 16 newspapers were renewed during the period September to November, 1993.

Newspapers/Magazines in Urdu Receiving Newsprint Quota

1515. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of newspapers/magazines in Urdu to which quota of newsprint was given during the year 1992-93 ; and

(b) what are the names of these newspapers/magazines alongwith the details of their circulation and the quantum of quota of newsprint given to each one of them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) As per the records available with the office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India, 223 Urdu Newspapers/periodicals were issued Entitlement Certificate to import and purchase newsprint from scheduled indigenous mills during 1992-93. Their names, circulation figures and quantum of quota of newsprint allocated are given in the annexure. [*See* Appendix CLXIX, Annexure No. 38].

Commissioning of Six-Episode Serial in Violation of Norms

1516. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL : SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan has recently commissioned a six-episode serial by M/s. Filmedia of Preet Vihar costing Rs. 12 lacs in violation of the norms laid down for the clearance and commissioning of serials to be telecast of Doordarshan ;

(b) if so, what are the considerations which weighed with Doordarshan to commission the serial in violation of the norms ;

(c) what action Government have taken in this matter and what policy Government propose to adopt in such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting up of a new press Commission

1517. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Federation of Working Journalists recently demanded the setting up of a new Press Commission to review the state of the Indian Press ;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ;